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INFLU-ENCE OF

How it Is Being Used in the Hospitals

Subtle Power That Has Been Recognized in All Ages

It is well known that music has great power over both man and beast. It can excite or it can soothe. It can please or it can madden It grief or disarm the severest rage. It despair and madness from the mind. It can uplift and enliven. It can depress and make sad.

with the poets. Shakespeare speaks music, of music as "a sweet cound that breathes upon a bank of violeta." In at the absence of Antony, asking for music and calling it the "moody food again he calls it the "silver sound that comes with speedy relief for the grieved heart and oppressed mind. Another poet pictures music as soothing the savage breast, softening the rocks and bending the knotted oak even causing inanimate things to move as living souls. Again, that it can tame the most furious beast, can make the wolf or foaming boar restrain his rage; cause the lion king of beasts, to drop his crested mane and listen attentive to the voice of song. That in music there is a sadness that moves to tears, or again it has magic wands that enchant the souls of mortals.

In all ages and in all climas the subtle power of music has been felt; its magic has been sung by the bards of all nations. Soldiers on every battle-field in the world have been rallied and inspired by its martial strains. Mortals have been lured to lives of idle pleasure and sensuous wantonness by its seductive charm.

While from the most ancient times the power of music has been recogand soft wood, lumber, lath, shingles, nized and used in many ways, yet it is only recently that its influence has been used as a cure for disease, means of restoring the sick to health. In New York City a Society of Musical Therapeutics has been organized, and it is the purpose of this society to introduce into the hospitals of that city musical treatment for the sick.

In one hospital, St. Luke's, a splendid organ was placed. Then, one day after everything was in readiness, the great organ boomed out the opening chords of a beautiful selection from Schubert. As the deep tones of the or-

gan vibrated though the wards of the hospital, the weary, pain-racked patients ceased their restless tossings and their feverish monnings to listen to the music.

There they lay listening, and as the tones of the organ grew softer and more soothing, a sweet restfulness crept into the throbbing brain and stole over the aching body and lulled by the gentle cadence they one by one fell asleep, and physicians and nurses passing quietly in and out left them undisturbed, knowing that sleep nature's restorer, could do for them more than all the medicines they could prescribe.

Thi society has found that the violincello, the organ, and trained soprano and contralto voices, in their several combinations, produce the best effect in hospital wards. The musician in charge of the music must have tact and judgment enough to know the kind of music best suited to different mental conditions.

For instance, all doleful music and can engender fury or it can kindle hymns and songs that by their assolove. It can charm away the fiercest ciation may have a disquieting or ir ritating influence are forbidden. And those volunteers who, with the best intentions hold religious services and sing hymns and songs that depress and make homesick are looked upon with marked disfavor by those who have made a study of healing by

Each case should be studied by itself, and the kind of music determinhis "Antony and Cleopatra" he pic- od by the temperament of the patient tures Cleopatra lovesick and forlorn and the nature of the disease. If a patient is languid and depressed, stimulating music should be used. of those that trade in love." And Brass instruments have been recommended in these cases. A soprano voice has been found to be mildly stimulating, while the contralto is more soothing and relaxing.

A Busy Old Man.

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